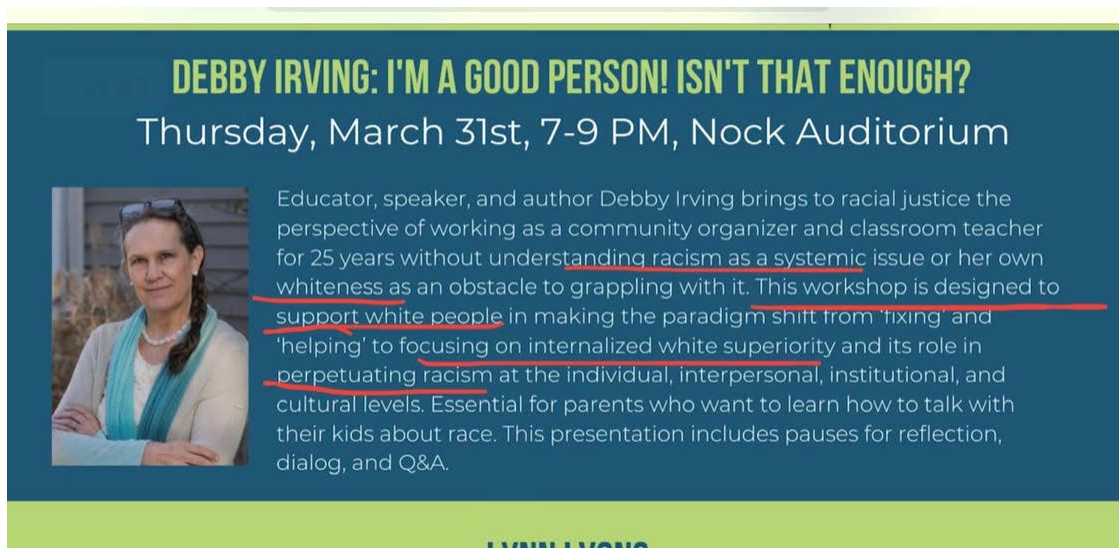



**From:** Stephen Jean <[sjhummer52@hotmail.com](mailto:sjhummer52@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2022 2:21 PM  
**To:** Richard Jones <[RJones@CityofNewburyport.com](mailto:RJones@CityofNewburyport.com)>  
**Subject:** Newburyport Youth Services Presentation on March 31, 2022

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing to you to express my concern about the upcoming 2-hour presentation by Racial Justice Political Activist, Debby Irving at the Nock Upper Elementary School on March 31st, 2022 about "White Supremacy" that is being hosted by Newburyport Youth Services (NYS). Please find the summary of the presentation below.



**DEBBY IRVING: I'M A GOOD PERSON! ISN'T THAT ENOUGH?**  
Thursday, March 31st, 7-9 PM, Nock Auditorium

 Educator, speaker, and author Debby Irving brings to racial justice the perspective of working as a community organizer and classroom teacher for 25 years without understanding racism as a systemic issue or her own whiteness as an obstacle to grappling with it. This workshop is designed to support white people in making the paradigm shift from 'fixing' and 'helping' to focusing on internalized white superiority and its role in perpetuating racism at the individual, interpersonal, institutional, and cultural levels. Essential for parents who want to learn how to talk with their kids about race. This presentation includes pauses for reflection, dialog, and Q&A.

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The topic of "White Supremacy" is one of the primary tenets of the political ideology, Critical Race Theory. NYS should be apolitical and not be allowed to use the tax dollars of Newburyport citizens to push any form of political ideology. Please review the following with regard to Debby Irving's political activist career:

[Wisc. professors, public school leaders to help host two-day 'white privilege symposium' | The College Fix](#)

[21-Day Racial Equity Activism Self-Care Challenge© – 21-Day Racial Equity Habit Building Challenge© \(21dayequitychallenge.com\)](#)

[Debby Irving – Racial Justice Educator and Writer](#)

According to the NYS website, it is "a municipal department with the mission to create quality programs, events and services for Greater Newburyport Area youth and families in safe and supportive environments that encourage growth, self-exploration, empowerment, and community. NYS achieves this by applying positive youth development principles through recreation programs, youth and family support services, and cross-sector community and regional collaboration." Hosting a presentation on "White Supremacy" is racially divisive and does not "encourage growth, self-exploration, empowerment, and community."

If NYS wants to host presentations on the politically divisive topic of "White Supremacy", then the City should no longer fund this organization.

I would like to request that this item be added to your next meeting agenda so that it can be discussed.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Jean  
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Newburyport  
617-610-2766